

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed February 12, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 2, 2004.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-75 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 10-28 and the indication of the allowability of claims 38, 49 and 57-75 (page 6, Paper No. 20070203).

The Official Action rejects claims 47 and 50-52 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,705,413 to Harkin. The Official Action rejects claims 36, 37, 39-46, 48 and 53-56 as obvious based on the combination of Harkin and Figure 1 and pages 2 and 3 of the present specification, which the Official Action refers to as "Applicants' admitted prior art" (AAPA).


In response and in accordance with the statement of allowed subject matter (Id.), independent claims 36 and 47 have been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claims 39 and 49, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 36 and 47, as amended, recite allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot. Also, in order to avoid a duplication of claims 57 and 67, claims 36 and 47 have been amended to recite shaping a laser beam emitted from a laser oscillator into a linear or an elliptical beam spot. Further, claims 10 and 15 have been amended to correct minor typographical informalities. Specifically, "non single-crystal" has been changed to "non-single crystal."

The Official Action rejects claims 36-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, noting a lack of antecedent basis for "the non semiconductor film" in independent claims 36, 47, 57 and 67. The term "non" was not intended. Therefore, in response, claims 36, 47, 57 and 67 have been amended in order to delete "non." The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 36, 47, 57 and 67 are definite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are in order and respectfully requested.

Accordingly, claims 10-28, 36-37, 39-48 and 50-75 are currently elected, of which claims 10, 15, 29, 36, 47, 57, and 67 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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